HOUSE . . . . No. 1246

By Mr. Larkin of Pittsfield, petition of Peter J. Larkin relative to higher education workforce training. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION WORKFORCE TRAINING

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1   SECTION 1.   Notwithstanding any general or special law to
2 the contrary, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the common-
3 wealth to encourage state college training opportunities in order to
4 promote workforce development, minimize the shortage of skilled
5 workers and raise economic opportunity through a matching
6 incentive grant program to be known as the state college higher
7 education workforce training incentive program. Subject to appro-
8 priation, the board of higher education shall establish guidelines
9 for the distribution of state college higher education workforce
10 training incentive grants; provided, however, that said guidelines
11 shall provide: (i) allowable incentive grant awards which shall not
12 exceed $200 for every $1,000 in eligible revenues; (ii) minimum
13 requirements for the level of not-for-credit vocationally-oriented
14 instruction which shall be provided by incentive grant recipients
15 in the fiscal year in which such grant is awarded; provided further
16 that after grant incentives are awarded, an amount not to exceed
17 $50,000 shall be allocated equally to campuses for the purposes of
18 funding a workforce training coordinator; provided further that for
19 the purposes of this section, eligible revenues shall be defined as
20 revenues received by a state college for one of the following pur-
21 poses: tuition and fees paid by students enrolled in not-for-credit
22 vocationally-oriented courses; tuition and fees paid by Massachu-
23 setts employers on behalf of employees enrolled in not-for-credit
24 vocationally-oriented courses; and revenues from service con-
25 tracts with Massachusetts employers to provide not for-credit

26 vocationally-oriented training; provided further that revenues
27 from contracts with public agencies, public grants or private gifts
28 shall not be considered eligible revenues for the purposes of this
29 section. Incentive grants shall be expended for the following pur-
30 poses: to expand not-for-credit vocationally oriented course offer-
31 ings; to expand not-for-credit vocationally-oriented instruction
32 provided through contracts with Massachusetts employers; and to
33 otherwise promote not-for-credit vocationally-oriented instruc-
34 tion; and provided further that the total aggregate amount of
35 incentive grants awarded by the board shall not exceed $2,500,000
36 in any fiscal year.

1   SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the common-
3 wealth to encourage public university training opportunities in
4 order to promote workforce development, minimize the shortage
5 of skilled workers and raise economic opportunity through a
6 matching incentive grant program to be known as the public uni-
7 versity higher education workforce training incentive program.
8 Subject to appropriation, the office of the president of the univer-
9 sity of Massachusetts shall establish guidelines for the distribution
10 of public university higher education workforce training incentive
11 grants; provided, however, that said guidelines shall provide:
12 (i) allowable incentive grant awards which shall not exceed $200
13 for every $1,000 in eligible revenues; (ii) minimum requirements
14 for the level of not-for-credit vocationally-oriented instruction
15 which shall be provided by incentive grant recipients in the fiscal
16 year in which such grant is awarded; provided further that each
17 public university which is eligible for grant awards in a fiscal year
18 shall, subject to appropriation, receive not less than $50,000 from
19 the total amount appropriated for the incentive program to fund
20 the salary of a workforce training coordinator at each such
21 campus; provided further that for the purposes of this section, eli-
22 gible revenues shall be defined as revenues received by a public
23 university for one of the following purposes: tuition and fees paid
24 by students enrolled in not-for-credit vocationally-oriented
25 courses; tuition and fees paid by Massachusetts employers on
26 behalf of employees enrolled in not-for-credit vocationally-ori-
27 ented courses; and revenues from service contracts with Massa-

28 chusetts employers to provide not for-credit vocationally-oriented
29 training; provided further that revenues from contracts with public
30 agencies, public grants or private gifts shall not be considered eli-
31 gible revenues for the purposes of this section. Incentive grants
32 shall be expended for the following purposes: to expand not-for-
33 credit vocationally oriented course offerings; to expand not-for-
34 credit vocationally-oriented instruction provided through contracts
35 with Massachusetts employers; and to otherwise promote not-for-
36 credit vocationally-oriented instruction; and provided further that
37 the total aggregate amount of incentive grants awarded by the
38 office of the president shall not exceed $2,500,000 in any fiscal
39 year.

1   SECTION 3. Each state college and public university campus
2 shall report not later than December 31, annually, to the board of
3 higher education or the office of the president of the university of
4 Massachusetts, and the house and senate committees on ways and
5 means on the level of not-for-credit vocationally-oriented instruc-
6 tion provided in the preceding fiscal year and the anticipated level
7 of such instruction in the current fiscal year. Said report shall detail
8 enrollment levels, revenues received, sources of revenues, the
9 number of service contracts established with Massachusetts
10 employers and such other information as the board of higher edu-
11 cation and the office of the president of the university of Massa-
12 chusetts may require.

1   SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.